



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue #13

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

23 August 2012

Pest Patrol Hotline

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Kudzu Bug Seminar/Field Day

- 1) **What:** Kudzu bug field day with in-field plot tour, indoor session, question/answer session, lunch, etc.
- 2) **When:** 11 September 2012 (a Tuesday) – free registration at 8:30AM...program starts at 9:00AM
- 3) **Where:** Edisto REC, 64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817 (just west of Blackville on Hwy 78)
- 4) **Who:** All are invited, but we particularly want soybean producers and consultants to attend
- 5) **Why:** The invasive pest is important and new, as is the information to be provided by numerous scientists
- 6) **How:** The meeting is sponsored by the United Soybean Board and the South Carolina Soybean Board

RSVP requested: Please email me (green4@clemson.edu) by **4 September** to let me know that you are attending. We need this information to plan lunch and breaks. **The meeting is FREE.** Scientists with Clemson, UGA, NCSU, USDA, and industry will be on the program addressing topics such as:

- Discovery and distribution of kudzu bug in USA
- How did the insect get here, and from where did it come?
- Biology of the kudzu bug
- Bio-control potential
- Tour of soybean field plots and field discussions
- Insecticide efficacy
- Yield component analyses/field cages
- Host plant resistance
- Recommendations for control in soybeans
- Multi-state panel question and answer session
- Effect of maturity group, planting dates, etc.

News from Above the Lakes

David DeWitt, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, reported that there is “not a lot of activity. Farmers seem to be spraying just ahead of thresholds in both cotton and soybeans. Light kudzu bugs but don’t seem to be too much pressure in fields I’ve walked. Some in the soybeans and corn planted behind corn, corn earworms and armyworms seem to like the young plants.”

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Jacob Stokes, county agent covering Clarendon, Florence, and Williamsburg Counties, reported that he is “seeing plenty of soybean loopers and corn earworms on this side of the lakes. Also found some stink bug eggs yesterday in Clarendon County but only in one field. The aerial applicators are busy.”

News from Below the Lakes

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported that he is “still finding worms and some stink bugs in soybeans. In the beans I have looked at, the kudzu bug numbers have dropped from what I had been seeing. I have talked to some growers that have applied what should be their last insecticide on their cotton this week.”

Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, reported that the “focus has been on target spot over here this week. Have seen a few stink bugs in the field while looking for target spot. Some stink bug applications going out still on our later cotton.”

Tommy Walker, county agent covering Hampton and Jasper Counties, reported that applications of a pyrethroid (Karate in this case) plus an insect growth regulator (Intrepid in this case) did a good job on mixed populations of insects in soybeans (insects included kudzu bugs, stink bugs, corn earworm, and soybean looper).

News from the Piedmont/Upstate

Jay Crouch, county agent in Newberry, reported that “stink bug sprays in cotton winding down. Kudzu bug treatments ramping up in group V and VI beans, aerial application scheduled to start here tomorrow. Some ground spraying has already been finished. Green cloverworms present in most fields at light to moderate pressure. Sprayed one bean field Monday for kudzu bug that also had a fairly high level of yellow-striped armyworm present, defoliation was becoming fairly significant. Soybean looper, podworms, and velvetbean caterpillar populations are quiet right now.”

Cotton Situation

As of 20 August 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the cotton crop at 100% squared, compared with where we were last year at 99% and the 5-yr average of 99%. About 85% of bolls have been set, compared with 84% last year and 84% for the 5-yr average. About 4% of bolls are opened, compared with 11% opened at this time last year and 5% for the 5-yr average. Conditions of the cotton crop were described as 8% excellent, 63% good, 28% fair, 1% poor, and 0% very poor. Soil moisture levels in the state were described for the past week as 1% very short, 15% short, 78% adequate, and 6% surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Current Problems in Cotton

Major arthropod issues in cotton right now continue to be late-season stink bugs, spider mites, and bollworm. Bollworm pressure continues to be high in late-planted cotton. Our boll-injury counts in non-Bt cotton are running about 90% damaged by bollworm, with some dual-gene cotton damage levels exceeding 10%. However, bollworm will not be an issue in most cotton from here to harvest, particularly where sprays for stink bugs are made. Additionally, most fields will no longer be susceptible to stink bugs very soon, if not already.

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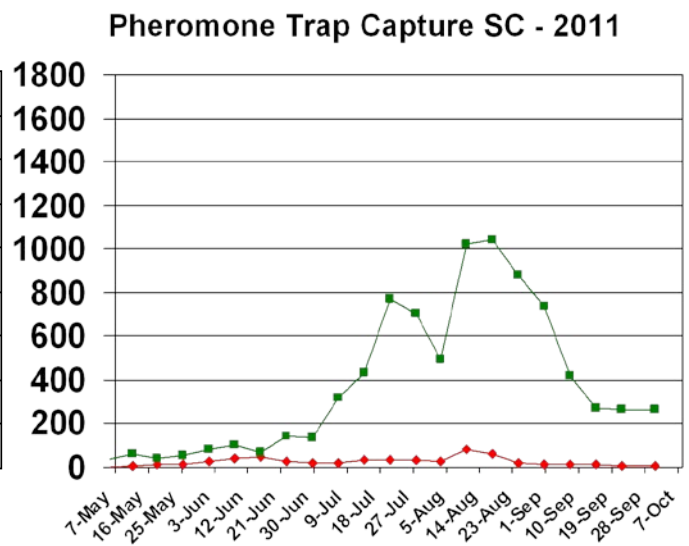
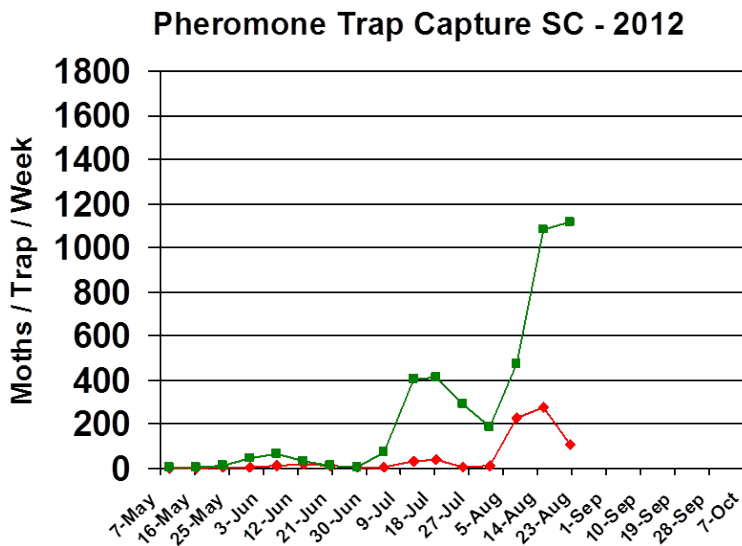
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Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2011 for reference. **Bollworm captures remain high but have likely peaked.** That species continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. These data provide a measure of moth activity in our local area near my research plots, indicating the likelihood of caterpillar pressure developing in the field. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Soybean Situation

As of 20 August 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 75% of soybeans as bloomed, compared with last year at 91% and the 5-yr average of 90%. Pods have been set on about 38% of acres, compared with 47% for last year and 55% for the 5-yr average. Conditions of the soybean crop are described as 4% excellent, 62% good, 28% fair, 5% poor, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Current Problems in Soybean

Soybean loopers, corn earworms, velvetbean caterpillars (pictured at right), stink bugs, and kudzu bugs are building in my fields, so, like I stated last week...***you need to have a consultant looking at your soybeans, or do it yourself.*** Species identification is essential to managing the complex of insects that can infest soybeans regularly this time of year! See Issue #9 for a good picture key for caterpillars. Remember, those identifications will determine what insecticides need to be applied. Repeating again what I stated last week – soybeans are worth a lot these days, right?





Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

Here is the latest map of the distribution of the kudzu bug, *Megacopta cribraria*, in the Southeast. Many thanks to Dr. Wayne Gardner (UGA) for updating and supplying this map regularly. There are 8 **states** now reporting this invasive species. In order of appearance of the pest: Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, Florida, Tennessee, and Mississippi. South Carolina remains the only state to be completely infested with this species.

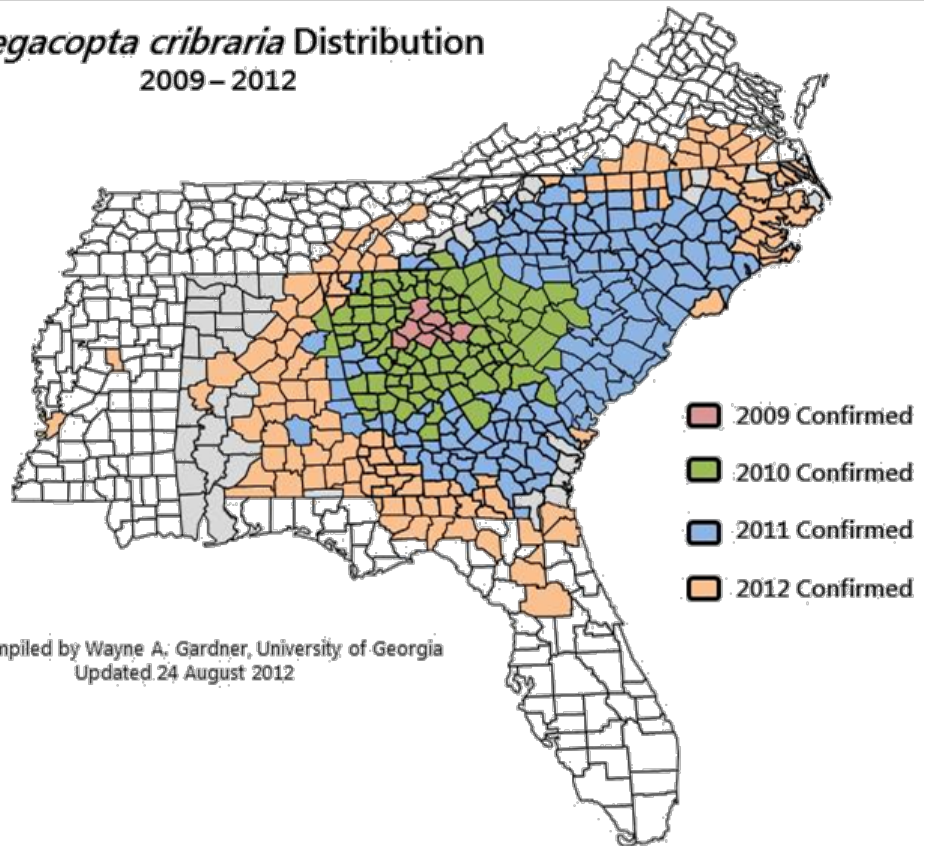


Newly molted adult kudzu bugs are abundant right now (today's picture). They are "ghost" white until the exoskeleton hardens.



Most of the egg production of kudzu bugs seems to have declined, but some new nymphs are still hatching out...took this today.

Megacopta cribraria Distribution 2009 – 2012



Map compiled by Wayne A. Gardner, University of Georgia
Updated 24 August 2012

A 12-minute presentation on the kudzu bug is open access until 31 October at the link below. A shorter presentation is open access permanently courtesy of the United Soybean Board. View these at:

<http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/soybean/kudzu>.

Visit our kudzu bug webpage for the latest information on this invasive pest:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/index.html>

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Pest Management Handbook - 2012

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2012 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:
<http://www.clemson.edu>

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